

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 ISO-00 USIE-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
FEA-01 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06 ERDA-05 DHA-02 /099 W
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O R 191349Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5286
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3678

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SALT, SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: TASS CRITICIZES PRESIDENT ON SALT

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS MARCH 19 CRITICIZES PRESIDENT'S UN
SPEECH AND CARRIES TOUGH GROMYKO STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
END SUMMARY.

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2. THE TASS ACCOUNT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S UN SPEECH, DATELINED
NEW YORK AND CARRIED IN THE CENTRAL SOVIET PRESS MARCH 19, IS
CRITICAL OF THE PRESIDENT ON SALT AND ON HUMAN RIGHTS. TASS
ACCUSES THE PRESIDENT OF "IN FACT PLACING IN DOUBT" THE
VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THAT IT MIGHT
BE POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE A MORE LIMITED AGREEMENT, BASED
ON AGREED ELEMENTS IN THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD, AND TO PUT

TO ONE SIDE FOR PROMPT STUDY AND SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS
THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.

2. TASS ADDS, EIDORIALY, "AS IS KNOWN, THE VLADIVOSTOK
ACCORD CONTAINS CLEAR PRESCRIPTIONS ("USTANOVKI") REGARDING
QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE LIMITS ON ALLY TYPES OF OFFENSIVE
STRATEGIC WEAPONS. IT IS GENERALLY KNOWN THAT THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA IS TO BLAME FOR THE DELAY IN CONCLUDING
THIS AGREEMENT."

3. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE TASS PIECE STATES THAT "IN HIS
SPPECH THE PRESIDENT ONCE AGAIN SPOKE OF 'RIGHTS' OF MAN"
AND ASKED THAT A MORE "UNIVERSAL CHARACTER BE GIVEN THE
QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS." THIS, SAYS TASS, "IN PRACTICE
SIGNIFIES ATTEMPTS BY THE USA TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL
AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES."

4. THE TONE OF THE TASS REPORT IS COLD AND UNSYMPATHETIC
(WE ASSUME FBIS WILL CARRY THE FULL TEXT). IN REPORTING
THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE,
TASS SAYS ONLY THAT THE PRESIDENT INDICATED AWARENESS THAT
THESE RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY A HIGH
DEGREE OF COMPETITION BUT, "AS HE PUT IT," THIS COMPETITION
SHOULD BE BALANCED BY COOPERATION IN PRESERVING PEACE.

5. THE TOUGH POSITION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IS
ECHOES IN TASS' MARCH 19 WRAP-UP OF CZECH FORMIN CHNOUPEK'S
VISIT TO THE SOIVET UNION. ACCORDING TO TASS, AT A MARCH
18 LUNCH IN CHNOUPEK'S HONOR GROMYKO SPOKE OF A NEGATIVE
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TREND IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CALCULATED TO DECEIVE THE
PEOPLES OF THE WORLD. ONE ASPECT OF THIS TREND DEALTH WITH
THE SO-CALLED "SOVIET MILITARY THREAT." ANOTHER INVOLVED
ONE PIECE OF HYPOCRISY AFTER ANOTHER REGARDING HUMAN
RIGHTS. GROMYKO IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT FAILURE TO REBUFF
SUCH SCHEMES WOULD AMOUNT TO "DANGEROUS SHORTSIGHTEDNESS."
IT WOULD SEEM, GROMYKO CONTINUED, THAT "GOVERNMENT AND
POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE WEST, WHO CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN THIS
WAY, OR WORSE, WHO ENCOURAGE DEMAGOGICAL CAMPAIGNS," MUST
UNDERSTAND THAT "THEY CAN UNDERMINE THAT WHICH HAS BEEN
ALREADY ATTAINED BY COLLECTIVE EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF
RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION." FURTHER, "THESE FIGURES
SHOULD BE AWARE THAT SMOOTH RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES ARE
IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-
INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

6. SECOND TASS-NEW YORK PIECE ON "PROVOCATIVE
CAMPAIGN" FOR HUMAN RIGHTS USES U.S. PRESS COMMENTS
TO POINT FINGER AT AMERICAN FAULTS IN HR FIELD,

E.G. DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION, AND TO ARGUE THAT U.S. STATED OPPOSITION TO HR VIOLATIONS IN CHILE AND ELSEWHERE IS NEGATED BY POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS WHICH SUPPORT THESE SAME REGIMES. ARTICLE, STILL CITING AMERICANS, TAKES LINE THAT CAMPAIGN HURTS DETENTE AND COULD LEAD TO CONFRONTATION.

7. COMMENT: TASS' SHARP REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON VLADIVOSTOK AND HUMAN RIGHTS SEEMS TO REPRESENT THE TRADITIONAL SOVIET TACTIC OF MAINTAINING A MAXIMUM NEGOTIATING POSITION ON THE EVE OF AN IMPORTANT VISIT. THE SOVIETS PROBABLY FELT THAT THEIR FAILURE TO CHALLENGE THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION ON SALT AND HUMAN RIGHTS JUST BEFORE THE VANCE VISIT COULD WEAKEN THEIR OWN BARGAINING POSTURE ON THESE KEY ISSUES. GROMYKO'S TOUGH COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS REITERATE
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THE STANDARD SOVIET LINE. HE DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY POINT AT THE US (ALTHOUGH HE DOUBTLESS HAD US IN MIND) BUT DOES WARN THAT "INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS" CAN UNDERMINE WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY DETENTE. TASS ACCOUNT OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS STOPS SHORT OF SUCH A WARNING. MEANWHILE, SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUES ITS TUB-THUMPING ON HUMAN RIGHTS "VIOLATIONS" IN WEST AND PARTICULARLY IN THE US.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 19-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, UR, US, UN, (CARTER, JIMMY)
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